

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MUSCAT 1042

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PORG, MU
SUBJECT: MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS: JULY 25-29 NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN
MINISTERS MEETING AT BELGRADE

REF: (A) STATE 178240, (B) STATE 178242

1. CHARGE OUTLINED USG POSITION ON CUBAN ISSUE AND ON
OTHER NON-ALIGNED MATTER OF IMPORTANCE TO U.S. IN DISCUSSION
JULY 26 WITH YUSUF AL-ALAWI, UNDERSECRETARY OF FOREIGN
MINISTRY. THIS WAS FIRST OPPORTUNITY WE HAD TO RAISE THESE TOPICS
WITH APPROPRIATE OMANGOV OFFICIAL. OMANI DELEGATION AT BELGRADE
IS HEADED BY SADEK SULAIMAN, CHIEF OF FOREIGN MINISTRY POLITICAL
DIVISION. WE UNDERSTAND THAT ALAWI, OR POSSIBLY FOREIGN MINISTER
QAIS ZAWAWI HIMSELF, MAY JOIN THE DELEGATION IF SOUTH YEMEN REPEATS
PREVIOUS HABIT OF DELIVERING AN ANTI-OMAN SPEECH.

2. CUBAN ISSUE: AFTER GIVING PRESENTATION BASED ON TALKING POINTS
IN REF A, CHARGE ASKED ALAWI HOW CUBAN QUESTION WILL ARISE AT
BELGRADE. ALAWI REPLIED THAT, WHILE OMAN'S ANTI-CUBA STANCE IS WELL
KNOWN AND WILL BE BASIS FOR OMANI DELEGATION'S POSITION, HE DID
NOT SEE MUCH HOPE THAT THE VIEWS OF STATES LIKE OMAN WILL GET VERY
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FAR. YUGOSLAVIA AS HOST WILL WORK TO AVOID CONFRONTING CUBA ON THE
ISSUE. THE MOST INFLUENTIAL VOICES IN THE MEETING WILL BE THOSE OF
STATES LIKE ALGERIA, IDEOLOGICALLY RADICAL AND ABLE TO SWAY THE
VOTING THEIR WAY.

3. ISSUES OF IMPORTANCE TO UNITED STATES: CHARGE OUTLINED TALK-
ING POINTS OF ALL TOPICS IN REF B. ALAWI'S RESPONSES WERE AS

FOLLOWS:

- (A) NEAR EAST. THE EGYPTIANS WILL BE ON THE DEFENSIVE AT BELGRADE AND MAY NOT BE ABLE TO GET AS MUCH SUPPORT FROM MODERATES AS ONE MIGHT HOPE. OMAN, HOWEVER, CONTINUES TO BACK THE SADAT INITIATIVE IN THE ARAB-ISRAELI DISPUTE AND WILL BE FAVORABLE TO THE EGYPTIANS.
- (B) ZIONISM/RACISM. ALAWI DID NOT COMMENT MUCH ON THIS ISSUE EXCEPT TO REFLECT HIS GENERAL FEELING THAT MODERATES WILL NOT BE ABLE TO GET ANYWHERE AGAINST THE RADICALS. HE THOUGHT THAT EVEN THE AFRICAN STATES WHICH MAY PRIVATELY DEPLORE THE ZIONISM-IS-RACISM CONCEPT WILL NEVERTHELESS GO ALONG WITH IT IN THE DEBATES AND THE VOTES.
- (C) PUERTO RICO. OMAN SUPPORTS THE UNITED STATES ON THIS ISSUE.
- (D) KOREA. OMAN SUPPORTS SOUTH KOREA. HERE AGAIN, HOWEVER, ALAWI SEEMED DISTINCTLY DOWNBEAT ABOUT THE PROSPECTS. HE INDICATED THAT FEW OTHER NEAR EASTERN STATES, EVEN THOSE INCLINED TO SYMPATHIZE WITH SOUTH KOREA, TAKE MUCH INTEREST IN THE QUESTION. SO, HE IMPLIED, WHY IS OMAN STICKING ITS NECK OUT?
- (E) SOUTHERN AFRICA. ALAWI THOUGHT THAT THE USG EFFORTS TO ACHIEVE AGREEMENT ON NAMIBIAN INDEPENDENCE WILL BE RECOGNIZED BY THE PARTICIPANTS AT BELGRADE.
- (F) MASS MEDIA. ALAWI HAD NO COMMENTS ON THIS ISSUE.

4. COMMENT: A FATALISTIC ATTITUDE ABOUT THE BELGRADE MEETING CAME THROUGH LOUD AND CLEAR IN VIRTUALLY ALL OF ALAWI'S REMARKS. FROM OMAN'S VANTAGE POINT, THE NON-ALIGNED MOVEMENT IS WEIGHTED TOWARD STATES WITH WHICH OMAN HAS LITTLE SYMPATHY. CONSERVATIVE REGIMES LIKE OMAN'S ARE A MINORITY AND ARE USUALLY ON THE DEFENSIVE IN THE

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RHETORIC, WHICH IS OFTEN THE INGREDIENT THAT COUNTS MOST. ALAWI SEEMED TO VIEW THE BELGRADE CONFERENCE AS LITTLE MORE THAN AN ORDEAL TO BE ENDURED. HE DID SAY, HOWEVER, THAT THE ANTI-CUBA STATES ARE LOOKING AHEAD TO THE NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT AND HOPE TO PUT TOGETHER A STRATEGY AGAINST CUBA BY THAT TIME.

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